REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 7, 2005. Claims 1, 3 to 8, 10 to 21, 23 to 25 and 27 to 30 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, 15, 18, 21, 25, 29 and 30 are independent.

Claims 1, 3 to 5, 7, 10 to 21, 23 to 25 and 27 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,490,052 (Yanagidaira). Claims 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yanagidaira in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,456 (Teng).

The present invention concerns a network interface apparatus which is connected to an image processing apparatus and communicates with an external apparatus. The network interface apparatus obtains display data that depends on an apparatus type of the image processing apparatus from the image processing apparatus. In addition, the network interface apparatus holds language information indicative of a language selected from among a plurality of kinds of languages, and designates the display data based on the held language information to obtain the display data corresponding to the selected language from the image processing apparatus.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a network interface apparatus which is connected to an image processing apparatus and communicates with an external apparatus. The apparatus includes: a providing unit adapted to provide display data necessary for constructing a picture plane for displaying or setting apparatus information of the image processing apparatus to the external apparatus; a holding unit adapted to hold language information indicative of a selected language among a plurality of kinds of languages; and a data obtaining unit adapted to obtain the display data from the image processing apparatus if the display data necessary for constructing the picture plane depends on an apparatus

type of the image processing apparatus and to obtain the display data from said network interface apparatus if the display data necessary for constructing the picture plane does not depend on the apparatus type of the image processing apparatus. The obtaining unit designates the display data based on the language information held by the holding unit to obtain the display data corresponding to the language indicated by the language information held by the holding unit from the image processing apparatus and the providing unit provides the designated display data corresponding to the language indicated by the language information held by the holding unit to the external apparatus.

In contrast, Yanagidaira discloses a print system including a print server and a printer. A language monitor provided in the print server obtains an operating state of the printer and records information indicative of the state in a printer information database. The print server then makes a HTML file based on information stored in the printer information database and sends the HTML file to a client apparatus.

However, Yanagidaira fails to disclose a holding unit adapted to hold language information indicative of a selected language among a plurality of kinds of languages. Furthermore, Yanagidaira fails to disclose a data obtaining unit adapted to obtain the display data based on the language information held by the holding unit to obtain the display data corresponding to the language indicated by the language information held by the holding unit from the image processing apparatus and the providing unit provides the designated display data corresponding to the language indicated by the language information held by the holding unit to the external apparatus.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that the "language monitors" in Yanagidaira are proof that a system in accordance with Yanagidaira can process printer status data in a human

language. (See 7 and 8 of Fig. 1 of Yanagidaira). However, Yanagidaira discloses that a language monitor is installed in the printer server corresponding to a printer. The language monitor performs communication with the printer and records the operating state (usually, paper-empty, paper-jam or power off) of the printer in a printer information database each time communication is performed. Further, the language monitor performs the internal operation setting of the printer based on the setting state recorded in the printer information database. (See Column 5, Lines 9 to 35, of Yanagidaira.) Therefore, the "language monitors" of Yanagidaira have nothing to do with human languages but instead are used to extract and store printer status information from communication streams. As such, Yanagidaira cannot possibly disclose the language management features of the present invention.

Furthermore, the Office Action asserts that "it would have been obvious to one of skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a selection display including a variety of language options indicated by the language information held by said holding means from the image processing apparatus for setting purposes" (page 4, lines 1-5, of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees with such an assertion. As featured in Claim 1, display data corresponding to a selected language is displayed in an external apparatus, but this is only one of the features of Claim 1. Display data that depends on an apparatus type of the image processing apparatus and corresponds to the selected language can be obtained from the image processing apparatus, in response to the network interface apparatus designating the display data based on the language information. In other words, language information indicative of the selected language is held in the network interface apparatus and the display data corresponding to the selected language is stored in the image processing apparatus. In a network interface

apparatus in accordance with Claim 1, display data for the selected language can be obtained from the image processing apparatus. Yanagidaira is entirely silent regarding such a feature.

In light of the deficiencies of Yanagidaira as discussed above, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 15 is directed to an image processing apparatus substantially in accordance with the network interface apparatus of Claim 1. Amended independent Claim 21 is directed to a method substantially in accordance with the network interface apparatus of Claim 1. Claim 29 is directed to a program executed by a computer substantially in accordance with the network interface apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 15, 21 and 29 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claim 8 is directed to a network interface apparatus which is connected to an image processing apparatus and communicates with an external apparatus. The network interface apparatus comprises a providing unit adapted to provide display data necessary for constructing a picture plane for displaying or setting apparatus information of the image processing apparatus to the external apparatus; an obtaining unit adapted to obtain shipping destination information showing to which place the image processing apparatus is shipped; and a data obtaining unit adapted to obtain the display data from the image processing apparatus if the display data necessary for constructing the picture plane depends on an apparatus type of the image processing apparatus and to obtain the display data from said network interface apparatus if the display data necessary for constructing the picture plane does not depend on the apparatus type of the image processing apparatus, wherein said data obtaining unit designates the display data based on the shipping destination information obtained by said obtaining unit to obtain the

display data corresponding to the place shown by the shipping destination information obtained by said obtaining unit from the image processing apparatus and said providing unit provides the designated display data corresponding to the place shown by the shipping destination information obtained by said obtaining unit to the external apparatus.

As featured in Claim 8, display data corresponding to the shipping destination of the image processing apparatus is displayed in an external apparatus. Display data that depends on an apparatus type of the image processing apparatus and corresponds to the shipping destination place can be obtained from the image processing apparatus, in response to the network interface apparatus designating the display data based on the shipping destination information obtained from the image processing apparatus. In other words, the shipping destination information is stored in the image processing apparatus and obtained by the network interface apparatus, and the display data corresponding to the shipping destination is stored in the image processing apparatus. Therefore, in a network interface in accordance with Claim 8, the display data for the shipping destination can be obtained from the image processing apparatus.

In contrast, Yanagidaira fails to disclose obtaining display data that depends on an apparatus type of the image processing apparatus from the image processing apparatus. Furthermore, Yanagidaira fails to disclose obtaining shipping destination information showing to which place the image processing apparatus is shipped, and designating the display data based on the obtained shipping destination information to obtain the display data corresponding to the shipping destination place.

In addition, Teng discloses a network server that sends various display data relating to a printer to a network client in response a request from the client. However, Teng is entirely silent in regard to either an obtaining unit which obtains shipping destination information

showing to which place the image processing apparatus is shipped or a language monitor that obtains display data corresponding to a shipping destination from the printer, and sends such display data to the client apparatus.

In an apparatus in accordance with Claim 8, it is possible to obtain the display data corresponding to U.S.A., for example, and the display data corresponding to Japan, for example, from the image processing apparatus and to provide the display data to the external apparatus. Yanagidaira and Teng, neither alone nor in combination, neither disclose nor suggest an apparatus capable of obtaining such a technical advantage.

In light of the deficiencies of Yanagidaira and Teng as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 8 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

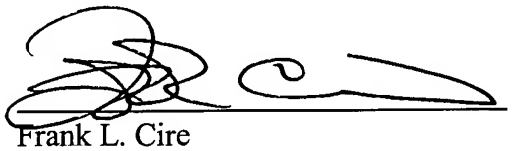
Amended independent Claim 18 is directed to an image processing apparatus substantially in accordance with the network interface apparatus of Claim 8. Amended independent Claim 25 is directed to a method substantially in accordance with the network interface apparatus of Claim 8. Claim 30 is directed to a program executed by a computer substantially in accordance with the network interface apparatus of Claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 18, 25 and 30 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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